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February 13, 1948

PERMANENCY AND CONSERVATION: The farm home and the farm land are closely tied together when it comes to this matter of conservation of the soil and water, said _____, chairman of the _____ county agricultural conservation committee, in commenting on the values of programs and projects to improve farm homes.

When the farm family begins to fix up and clean up around the farmstead it's usually an indication they intend to stay and make the farm their home. And now that electricity is making it possible for farm families to have refrigerators, deep freezers, electric stoves, radios and other conveniences which have been considered available only to their city cousins, there is a greater desire to make a home on the farm. Farm women can have some of the conveniences they've wanted for a long time.

The chairman believes that the bringing of electricity to the farm along with the conveniences that go with it lends itself to greater permanency on the farm. Stability of farm occupancy makes possible the crop rotations and other practices which aid present and future production on the farm.

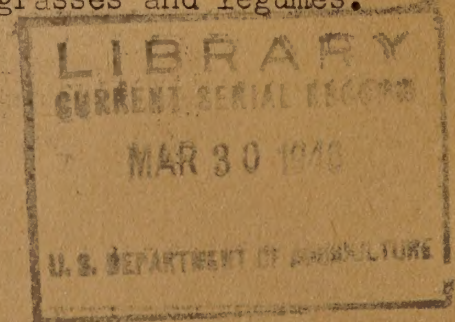
WHY PHOSPHATE IN ACP: Roots hold soil. Tiny roots that push their way down through the soil and wrap themselves around soil particles provide the reinforcement that keeps the land from being washed away. When the vegetation has been killed and the roots have been destroyed the land is open to the bombarding of rain or the driving force of the wind. There's nothing to hold it and it is carried away.

According to _____, chairman of the _____ county agricultural conservation committee, this explains why the application of phosphate in connection with approved legumes and grasses is a part of the conservation program.

The real purpose, says the chairman, is to increase the growth of roots in the soil. Since grass and legumes are the more permanent types of farm crops and their root systems are very effective in holding the soil, the application of phosphate has been especially encouraged for these crops.

Grass and clover also are good crops for livestock and conservation farming systems.

So the effectiveness of the application of phosphate as a conservation practice, the chairman explains, is in the accelerated growth of grasses and legumes.



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COMMITTEEMAN DISCUSSES CROP INSURANCE: "If conservation means the opposite of waste — and I think it does — when we need a program of conservation for farmers as well as farmland," says chairman of the _____ county agricultural conservation program.

"By that," he explains, "I mean that good farmers are an asset to the country. They, as well as soil, may be wasted by a combination of bad weather, fire, bugs, disease, rodents, hail, frost or any of the other things that can turn the best of farming into a failure."

Conserving the soil depends a lot on the men who till the soil, he explains. "We can't afford to lose these farmers because of crop failure. That's why crop insurance plays such an important part in the whole farm conservation program."

While the area where crop insurance is in effect this year is limited, the chairman explains, the program is of vital interest in that its successful operation may lead to a broad program of protection to all farmers.

U. S. POTATOES GO TO HELP FEED EUROPE: Efforts to find ways and means of shipping potatoes to Europe without heavy loss have been reasonably successful and arrangements have been completed for the shipment of approximately 3,495,000 bushels of potatoes to Italy, France, and American-English sections of Germany, according to J. E. Kasper, chairman of the North Dakota PMA committee.

Five cargoes of potatoes of about 1,165,000 bushels will go to Italy, to be shipped not later than February 20 and a similar amount is to be shipped to Italy not later than March 1. The shipment to Germany of another 1,165,000 bushels will be made during February.

Mr. Kasper said that previous attempts to ship potatoes have not been too successful. In some cases potatoes have begun spoiling before the ships were fully loaded. Suitable ships have not always been available and sometimes transportation has not been adequate after arrival in Europe. Reports indicate that these obstacles have been pretty well eliminated and potatoes can be shipped fairly successfully to some European countries.

The potatoes will be taken largely from Eastern ports, principally from Maine. This movement, the chairman explains, will tend to reduce losses of potatoes in storage in this country by taking care of the surplus in heavy producing areas. At the same time it will be supplying urgently needed food to hungry people in Europe.

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

March 5, 1948

NEEDS ESTIMATES AND PROGRAM CONFERENCE CALLED: North Dakota will be represented at a 2-day conference on conservation needs and the Agricultural Conservation Program to be held at Denver, Colorado, March 8, and 9, 1948. Named to attend the conference are J. E. Kasper, Chairman of the State Committee, John Bruns, Member of the State Committee, Leslie D. Sachow, Chief of Program Operations Division and Tillman Vigen, Head of Audit and Statistical Section of the State Office.

Mr. Kasper, the State PMA Chairman, says that the study of conservation needs is of increasing importance. Not only does it affect the allocation of funds between States, but, of greater importance, the needs estimates serve as a guide in program planning and administration.

He explained that for the past 3 years county and community agricultural conservation committees have been conducting needs surveys to determine how much conservation is needed — for example, how many farms need terraces and how many and the size of terraces that are needed on each farm.

States also will be asked to have their recommendations on the 1949 Agricultural Conservation Program in Washington by May 1. At the conference State representatives will have a chance to discuss proposed changes in the program.

Some of the questions to be discussed at the regional conference are: What changes in the program will be needed to get all the farmers who need conservation work to carry out conservation practices on their farms? What assurance can be had that assistance will be given only for conservation that would not be done without program aid? How can an effective crop-rotation system be established on every farm?

Also to be considered at the meeting are means for making more effective the findings of the conservation needs surveys, local practices, the use of State technical committee, and long-time program planning.

RAIN AT THE WINDOW: Rain beating at the window, wind moaning in the eaves, and a moonless night are the setting for many a story of fiction tragedy. Except for the moonless night, they also are the setting for a story of real tragedy—a story which may be even more tragic depending on what we do or don't in the future.

As explained by J. E. Kasper, chairman of the North Dakota PMA committee, the rain at the window and the wind in the eaves tell two powerful stories. One is of green pastures, abundant harvests, healthy people and happy homes. The other is of dust storms, muddy water, gullied farms, wasted land, poverty and desolation.

And the kind of a story depends on us farmers, the PMA chairman says. The wind can mean moisture-laden clouds moving in from the ocean carrying rain for growing crops. Or the wind can mean clouds of dust—precious topsoil—blowing away. The rain can mean muddy water carrying away tons of our limited soil to the ocean.

"Perhaps, no country and no people have squandered more of their most precious natural resource—our soil, from which comes food and life," says the chairman. "In the short span of 300 years since the Pilgrims landed, the layer of topsoil in which we grow our food has been reduced from 9 to 6 inches.

"And the story of the rain at the window and the wind in the eaves may be just as hopeful or just as tragic for the people who live in apartments and flats as to the folks who live on the farm," the chairman explains. "Their living comes from the land just as does the living of the farmer and his family. All depend on the soil for food.

"Through an effective soil and water conservation program the people in town as well as the folks on the farm can read in the wind and the rain the story of abundant harvests and plenty of food or just the reverse. It depends on the farmer. Proper conservation of the land means abundance, neglect means trouble.

"In the Agricultural Conservation Program we have a nation wide grass roots conservation effort that is proving effective. Administered by farmer-elected committeemen, it is based on practical farm operations. Progress is being made, but to do the job effectively will require the understanding cooperation of everyone. There is much still to be done."

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE CHECKS ACP PRACTICES: Farmers of _____ county are indebted to the training and experience of the PMA State technical committee for help in establishing sound conservation practices under the Agricultural Conservation Program. _____ chairman of the county agricultural conservation committee, says that practices under the 1948 program have been carefully checked by the PMA technical committee.

When the list of national practices are reviewed by the State, the technical committee helps determine which practices from the national outline should be selected for the State. Specifications are drawn up for the selected practices and farmers must follow these specifications to qualify for financial assistance under the program.

This committee is made up of representatives from the Production and Marketing Administration, Extension Service, Experiment Station, Soil Conservation Service, and of the North Dakota State Department of Agriculture.

Members of the technical committee have a significant and vital part in developing the Agricultural Conservation Program. When recommendations come in from counties for the next year's program, the State PMA Committee calls a meeting of the technical committee and together they go over the recommendations to keep the practices and specifications in line with research results.

The technical committee for North Dakota is made up of the following: John Bruns, Chairman, Production and Marketing Administration, R. B. Widdifield, Extension Service, T. E. Stoa, Experiment Station, A. D. McKinnon, Soil Conservation Service, and P. J. Murphy, State Department of Agriculture.

OUR COUNTY AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION OFFICE: A farmer behind a desk instead of in front of it is not as uncommon as it used to be. A good example of this change is the County Agricultural Conservation office.

The (county) county office is located at _____. The men in charge are the farmer-committeemen elected by farmers last fall and winter. Elections were held in all the farm communities or townships in the county to name community committeemen and delegates to a county convention. The three farmers who administer the county agricultural conservation program were elected by the delegates.

These county committeemen run their own farms and usually are at the county office only long enough to do their required administrative work. They are paid only for the time actually spent in this work and do not draw a regular salary.

_____ is chairman of the _____ county committee. Other members of the committee are _____, vice chairman and _____, member.

Since the committee is not in the office all the time, _____ is in charge of office operations. (List other employees if desired.)

A major portion of the job of the county committee is administering the Agricultural Conservation Program. This starts with suggestions for the program a year ahead. The committee soon will be sending in recommendations for the 1949 program and farmers now are being invited to give their ideas to community committeemen or send them to the county office.

A major responsibility at this time of the year is meeting with farmers, explaining program practices and agreeing on conservation plans for the year. In this way farmers get the details on how practices must be carried out and the help available. To qualify for assistance the farmer is obliged to carry out conservation practices as specified. Checks are made to see that practices are carried out to assure the desired conservation results.

Other programs administered by the county ACP office are crop loans and other price support measures, the sugar program, phases of the crop insurance program, and other work as assigned.

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